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22 January 1959

STAFF MEETING MINUTES - 20 January 1959

Personnel Present: Mr. Bissell

25X1A

Col. Burke

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

Mr. Cunningham
Mr. Reber

PART I - CHALICE

25X1C

2. STATUS OF MERGER. Col. Burke advised that the Air Division and Logistics has seen all papers relative to the draft. FE Division has seen drafts of the proposals and a recap of the personnel savings resulting from the merger. Mr. Bissell advised that [redacted] Chief FE, has expressed objection to any proposal which would eliminate the area Division conceived from being in the command channel or air ops. Mr. Bissell stated that he felt the area divisions should have effective control over aspects which are typically within area division scope--such as cases where area specialists' knowledge would have a direct bearing on a proposed operation. However, he felt that the divisions should give up command control over the following functions:

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- A. Proficiency of air crews.
- B. Maintenance of aircraft.
- C. Flight Safety.

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D. Flight planning.

E. Procedures.

Mr. Cunningham stated that Col. White's guestimate on occupancy of additional space at 1717 H Street (to accomodate an influx of personnel as result of the merger) was 1 March.

25X1D

25X1A

3. & 4. TEST STATUS BOARD. No significant change, with the exception of [] said seven tests had been run recently using the Black Box device and that additional ones were planned at Edwards, making use of F102, F104, F106's. Of the seven runs, one was particularly significant in that there was definite success

25X1D

[]
Mr. Bissell then directed that the larger unit be dropped and that work continue on the present box in order to able to turn it over to operations for use as soon as possible. Mr. Bissell added there was no objection to continuing to take a look at a more powerful unit but not at the expense of slowing down production of the smaller proven one.

The question was then raised as to how many units should be produced. Mr. Bissell expressed the opinion there should be one for each operational U-2; hence, eight. He stated his preference as total of ten which would give each detachment a spare. If the unit was interchangeable and easily adjusted, the minimum could be set at six.

25X1A

ACTION: []

25X1C

5. STATUS OF ALBANIAN MISSION. Flight planning completed. Mission ready to go, weather permitting. Now wanting only []

25X1C

PART II - GUSTO

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6. REPORT ON GUSTO TRIP. [] reported on recent trip of himself, Messrs. Kiefer, [] to Fort Worth and West Coast. At Convair a series of meetings were held which covered a security briefing by [] a run down on organization with emphasis placed on the desirability of not having too many ties to main plant. It was agreed that a hard look would be taken at the program for four months to be certain Convair could produce results expected in all respects; i.e., security, personnel, facilities, production, and also as a period in which to determine if Convair was ready to expand to whatever degree necessary. In this connection, Security estimated that the Fort Worth peak would be [] and [] stated it would be difficult to remain under the [] security clearance figure proposed as maximum.

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The question of expansion of facilities was discussed by the team. It appeared security would be controlled by locating in corner of area and while this area not security cleared perfectly now, it will improve.

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25X1A

25X1C

Also, the surfacing of [] would be considered.

25X1A

ACTION: []

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25X1A

[] felt Convair's accounting system was good and would do. He felt that [] would also be satisfactory since it has a 100% government business and has already been audited by the Air Force and found to comply with applicable regulations.

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[] stated that Convair would operate under CPFF contract and [] would operate under a Time and Material contract until its full scope is defined at which time another look would be taken.

25X1A

Communications equipment at the meetings was covered by []

25X1A

ACTION: []

The acquisition of a building (300 by 300) and land was brought up.

25X1A

ACTION: []

25X1A

[] Project was introduced at this point and Mr. Bissell stated he would discuss this on his trip this week.

25X1A

Wind tunnel use for GUSTO with emphasis on security aspects was singled out for comment. A study of feasibility will be made.

25X1A

ACTION: Mr. Kiefer, []

The budgeting picture for GUSTO is under preparation by [] who will prepare a memorandum covering money needs. When this is completed it will be included in the memo for the director for the whole GUSTO program.

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ACTION: [] Mr. Bissell

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make an evaluation of the Convair article covering range, payload, payload areas, its suitability for overseas bases, and its flexibility (e.g., aircraft carrier or other small landing area). The evaluation should cover disadvantages or advantages and should also cover security involved in two-vehicle, in-flight, take-off system as compared with take-off under own power. Mr. Bissell commented that consideration should be given to the fact that two vehicles compound chances of malfunction.

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ACTION:

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In the above connection Mr. Bissell recommended that discreet inquiries be made at Edwards to determine if there is any Air Force experience touching on the dual vehicle operation this might be accomplished by talking to General Cooper.

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ACTION:

Also, an evaluation of dual vehicle operation versus own take-off from security aspect should be evaluated.

25X1A

ACTION:

Along same evaluation lines, Mr. Bissell requested a look at in-flight refueling capability.

25X1A

ACTION:

25X1A

8. CORONA. Mr. Bissell made reference to cable 0267 which discusses the beginning of an attempt by AF to link SEVIRY with the DISCOVERER program and in the act possibly uncover CORONA. To avoid this, a suitable cover must be worked out acceptable to all parties concerned with the program but not a DISCOVERER II concept.

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ACTION:

9. OTHER ITEMS. Contracts and R & D has divided and are two autonomous sections.

25X1A

Mr. Bissell expressed his desire to have a preliminary session on photographic payload for GUSTO. He emphasized that the door should be left open for competition and that this thinking be discreetly revealed to Fairchild, IITEK and P & E (through)

Personnel at the conference should include Drs. Land, Baker, and Yutze, and Mr. Lundahl. A mid-February conference will be arranged.

ACTION: Mr. Bissell.

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A final point of business was whether or not to show some Typhoon Photography to Dr. Fletcher and about 500 meteorologists from various universities.

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ACTION:

Mr. Bissell requested that all sections designate a specific person who will act as the Deputy of that section and will have authority to act for the section chief in the latter's absence. In addition, this Deputy should at all times be completely aware of all activities of the section to enable him to act efficiently and correctly.

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APPROVED:

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WILLIAM BURKE

Colonel USAF

Deputy Director, DFD-DD/P

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